of roads is a State subject and the Government of India does not monitor the progress of such works being executed by the State Governments.

(c) The Government will write to the Government of Uttar Pradesh by February 25, 1999, advising them to complete the construction work expeditiously.

(d) Construction of roads is a State subject and the Government have not been informed of such a proposal.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आवासीय इकाइयों की आवश्यकता

292. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आवासीय इकाइयों की कमी के संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया है अथवा करने का प्रस्ताव है;

(ख) क्या देश के पिछड़े एवं गरीब क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त आवासीय इकाइयों की आवश्यकता के संबंध में प्रखंड-वार आकलन किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबागौड़ा पाटील): (क) सन् 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 13.72 मिलियन आवास की कमी का अनुमान था।

(ख) से (घ) देश के पिछड़े एवं गरीब क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त आवासीय ईकाइयों की आवश्यकता का ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय द्वारा कोई ब्लाकवार आकलन नहीं किया गया था।

Holding Panchayat elections regularly

293. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how Government plan to ensure that Panchayat elections are held in time;

(b) which States have not held any Panchayat elections during the last five years, giving details State-wise; and

(c) which State are holding Panchayat elections regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Article 243K(1) of the Constitution stipulates constitution of a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor, who is responsible for superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats. The State Governments are responsibile for the conduct of elections before the expiry of 5 years of the current Panchayat or before the expiry of 6 months from the date of its dissolution, in coordination with the State Election Commission. The Government of India however monitors the status of conduct of elections. The State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have not held Panchayat elections during the last 5 years. Karnataka has also postponed elections which are due in March 1999. The Government has urged the concerned State Governments to comply with the Constitutional provisions regarding conduct of elections and has also intimated them that it will not be possible to continue to transfer funds under rural development programmes meant for panchayats to States where Panchayats are not in position, The response of State Governments is awaited.

(c) The remaining States where the Constitution Seventy-third Amendment Act, 1992 applies are all holding Panchayat elections regularly, Namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamilnadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, A&N Islands, Chandigarh, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep.